REMARKS

Claims 5 - 8 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claim 5 has been amended and new claims 9 and 10 have been added. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated August 1, 2005.

Claim Objection:

Claim 5 stands objected to in item 4 of the Action due to a minor informality. However, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 has been amended to correct the minor informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejection:

claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuhashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,497,198) in view of Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 6,512,548).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 5:

According to the claim 5, when an instruction key is in a non-operative state, an object scene image having a low resolution is repeatedly output from an outputter. When the instruction key is in an operative state, a single frame of object scene image having a high resolution is output from the outputter.

A first displayer displays on a monitor a moving image based on the object scene images repeatedly outputted from the outputter when the instruction key is in the non-operative state. Furthermore, a recorder performs a recording process on the single frame of object scene image output from the outputter when the instruction key is in the operative state.

A still image based on the object scene image to be subjected to the recording process by the recorder is displayed on the monitor by a second displayer. However, a determiner determines, prior to starting a display process of the second displayer, whether or not the instruction key is shifted from the operative state to the non-operative state. The display process of the second displayer is permitted when a determination result of the determiner is negative, and the display process of the second displayer is prohibited when the determination result of the determiner is affirmative.

Accordingly, when an operating time period of the instruction key is extended, a still image representative of a recorded object scene image is displayed first, and then a process to display a moving

image representative of a real-time object scene image is resumed. On the other hand, when the operating

time period of the instruction key is shortened, a process to display the still image representative of the

recorded object scene image is omitted.

Consequently, an operator is able to quickly confirm the recorded object scene image by

extending the operating time period of the instruction key, while the operator is able to quickly resume a

framing of an object scene by shortening the operating time period of the instruction key.

Thus, the display process of the recorded object scene image prior to resuming the display

process of the real-time object scene image is permitted or prohibited depending upon the operating time

period of the instruction key, and therefore, quick confirmation of the recorded object scene image and

quick resumption of the framing of the object scene are accomplished.

In contrast, according to Mitsuhashi et al., when a shutter button is depressed to a second stage in a

state of a real-time moving image of an object being displayed on an EE mode, a still image representative

of the object is recorded to a secondary storage. When a recording process is completed, a display process

of the real-time moving image on the EE mode is resumed. It is noted that when a certain time period elapses

while the shutter button is depressed to a first stage after photographing, an operation mode is changed from

the EE mode to a review mode. Therefore, the still image lastly recorded is reproduced from the

secondary storage so as to be displayed.

Thus, in Mitsuhashi et al., when the recording process of the still image is completed, the display process of the real-time moving image is resumed first. The recorded still image is displayed by a particular operation of the shutter button during the certain time period. Since a display order is the real-time moving image → the recorded still image, and the recorded still image is displayed by the particular operation, it is not possible to quickly confirm the recorded still image in Mitsuhashi et al.. That is, in Mitsuhashi et al., although a quick resumption of a framing is realized, no quick confirmation of the recorded still image is realized.

In addition, Mitsuhashi et al. fail to disclose or remotely suggest anything about a constitution of the claim 5 in which the display process of the recorded object scene image prior to resuming the display process of the real-time object scene image is permitted or prohibited depending upon the operating time period of the instruction key, and therefore, quick confirmation of the recorded object scene image and quick resumption of the framing of the object scene are accomplished.

Anderson discloses to display a newly captured image on an LCD immediately after a capturing operation. However, Anderson also fails to disclose or remotely suggest anything about a constitution of the present invention in which the display process of the recorded object scene image prior to resuming the display process of the real-time object scene image is permitted or prohibited depending upon the operating time period of the instruction key, and therefore, quick confirmation of the recorded object scene image and quick resumption of the framing of the object scene are accomplished.

As to a combination of Mitsuhashi et al. and Anderson, each reference is silent on the above described constitution of the claim 5. Accordingly, it is believed that it is not possible to reach the features of claim 5 from the combination of the references, and therefore, claim 5 and its dependent claims 6-9 are patentable.

Independent Claim 10:

It is respectfully submitted that a distinguishing feature of the present invention from Mitsuhashi is that Mitsuhashi displays a digital still picture which has been recorded in the IC memory card loaded in the secondary storage unit 19, whereas in contrast in the present invention the still picture data, high resolution YUV data, that is displayed by the second displayer in claim 1 is read from SDRAM 38 and not from the memory card 50. (See, the bridging paragraph between pages 8 and 9 of the present specification.)

More specifically, according to col. 5, lines 47-67 of Mitsuhashi:

Here, when the shutter button 20 is pushed to the second level, a picture is taken. That is, under the control of the control unit 15, the shutter is operated by the shutter unit 12, the image is converted to picture signals by the camera block 13, the picture signals are compressed by the recording circuit 17, the signals are converted to a digital format, and the digital still picture data is recorded in the IC memory card loaded in the secondary storage unit 19.

Further, when the shutter button 20 continues to be pushed after the picture is taken, and is kept depressed at the first level for more than a predetermined time, the control unit 15 exercises control so that the changeover switch 16 is connected to the second contact side, whereby the digital still picture data recorded in the IC memory card loaded in the secondary storage unit 19 is expanded and output to the display unit 14 to be shown.

In other words, when the user presses the shutter button 20 to the second level in Mitsuhashi the digital still picture data is recorded in the IC memory card and when the user continues to hold the shutter button 20 at the first level the digital still picture **recorded** in the IC memory card is expanded and output to the display unit 14.

In contrast, for example, as discussed in lines 1-10 of page 9 of the present specification, the high resolution YUV data is read out of the bank A of the SRAM 38 by the memory control circuit 30. The read high-resolution YUV data is supplied via a buffer 26b and switch SW2 to the NTSC encoder 42. The NTSC encoder 42 encodes the high-resolution YUV data and delivers an encoded signal to the monitor 22.

In other words, the high resolution YUV data is read out of the bank A of the SRAM 38, and not from the recorded still images in memory card 50, by the memory control circuit 30.

As such, new independent claim 10 call for a second displayer for displaying on said monitor an unrecorded still image based on the object scene image to be subjected to the recording process by said recorder in order to distinguish over the combination of Mitsuhashi and Anderson, since Mitsuhashi clearly discloses that when the user continues to hold the shutter button 20 at the first level the digital still picture **recorded** in the IC memory card is expanded and output to the display unit 14.
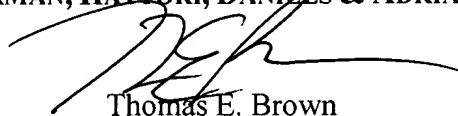
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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